



Hunter, 14

What have you been doing this week?

I bought a ukulele.* I'm studying for exams, and I'm playing the drums.

Where do you play drums?

At my house. I have lessons there. A teacher comes to my house.

Why are you learning to play drums?

I just think it's a cool instrument to learn. I like funk* and rock music. Funk is just so upbeat.*

Why did you buy a ukulele?

Because I'd like to learn how to play. We play Jamaican* music. I've heard lots of it and I thought it would be fun to learn how to play it.

Is there anything that you are looking forward to?

This summer I'm going to Puerto Rico.* We visit there a lot because my mom is from there. We visit family and have vacation there. My grandfather, my dad's dad, will visit us there. My sister is in college now. She'll go with us.

Do you like Puerto Rico?

It's very nice and tropical. They have nice beaches. I like the fruit they have, the different foods. I really like plátanos.*

What do you hope to do after high school?

I'd like to go to college and later get my Ph.D.* I've thought about studying U.S. history. I want to be a professor when I grow up. I'd like to be a teacher, and I like history.

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

To just work hard in school.

A Few Words

Ukulele: This is a musical instrument that looks like a small guitar. It was first played in Hawaii.

Funk music: A kind of music that was especially popular in the 1960s and 1970s.

Upbeat: Cheerful, happy.

Jamaica: An island in the Caribbean Sea, south and east of the U.S.

Puerto Rico: Another Caribbean island. The people of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens. The main language of Puerto Rico is Spanish.

Plátanos: These are very similar to bananas. People cook them.

Ph.D.: This means Doctor of Philosophy and is the most advanced university degree in the U.S.

Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of things make you feel upbeat? Why?
2. What are you looking forward to doing this summer? Why?